

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-36 (Cancelled).

37. (Previously presented) A method for assigning bandwidth in a point-to-multipoint communications system comprising a master station and a plurality of receiving stations, comprising:

allocating a first amount of bandwidth at setup to a first plurality of the receiving stations via the master station in accordance with a static modality;

receiving at the master station requests for bandwidth from a second plurality of the receiving stations;

in response to a request for bandwidth from each of the requesting second plurality of receiving stations, assigning to every one of the requesting second plurality of receiving stations the requested bandwidth up to a predetermined guaranteed minimum bandwidth; and

sharing a remaining bandwidth not assigned in accordance with the static modality and not assigned in response to a request for bandwidth among the requesting second plurality of receiving stations.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein said step of sharing a remaining bandwidth comprises the step of assigning all of a remaining bandwidth to the requesting second plurality of receiving stations.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 37 wherein said step of sharing a remaining bandwidth comprises the step of sharing a remaining bandwidth among a subset of the requesting second plurality of receiving stations requesting bandwidth greater than the guaranteed minimum bandwidth.

40. (Previously presented) A system for assigning bandwidth in a point-to-multipoint communications system including a master station and a plurality of receiving stations, comprising:

a controller for performing the steps of:

allocating a first amount of bandwidth at setup to a first plurality of the receiving stations via the master station in accordance with a static modality;

receiving at the master station requests for bandwidth from a second plurality of the receiving stations;

in response to a request for bandwidth from each of the requesting second plurality of receiving stations, assigning to every one of the requesting second plurality of receiving stations the requested bandwidth up to a predetermined guaranteed minimum bandwidth; and

sharing a remaining bandwidth not assigned in accordance with the static modality and not assigned in response to a request for bandwidth among the requesting second plurality of receiving stations.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein said step of sharing a remaining bandwidth comprises the step of assigning all of a remaining bandwidth to the requesting second plurality of receiving stations.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein said step of sharing a remaining bandwidth comprises the step of sharing a remaining bandwidth among a subset of the requesting second plurality of receiving stations requesting bandwidth greater than the guaranteed minimum bandwidth.